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vertical transfer tube and filtered fluid overflows the tank. As was pointed out during the interview on January 13, 1999 which Examiner Cintins was kind enough to grant by telephone, the top of page 16 of the specification as filed discloses that the system shown in Figure 7 allows filter media to rise above the surface of the water and thus provides support for claims 15-21.

Claim 21 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, second paragraph. As discussed with Examiner Cintins on January 13, 1999, the term "overflow" in the last line of claim 21 means that the water rises and flows out of the tank, even though it may do so through a screen. Applicant intended to differentiate claim 21 from a system where, for example, filtered fluid might flow out of a pipe below the upper surface of the fluid.

Since the Examiner has indicated that the subject matter of claim 15 is neither taught nor suggested by references of record, it is respectfully submitted that claims 15-21 are allowable. A Notice of Allowance is hereby respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Applicant respectfully petitions the Commissioner for any extension of time necessary to render this paper timely.

Please charge any fees due or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0694.

Respectfully submitted,



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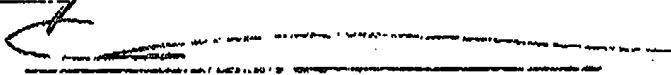
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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office on this 15th day of January 1999.


Seth M. Nehrbass
Reg. No. 31,281

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